CLAIMS:

1.   Method of visualisation of a tubular structure of an object (1) by use of a
3D image data set of said object, comprising the steps of: - generating and visualising a
curved planar reformation view (C) from a symbolic pathway view (B) of said tubular
structure, said symbolic pathway view (B) representing said tubular structure and the
pathway points of said symbolic pathway being assigned with their 3D spatial position
data, and - generating and visualising at least one planar view (O) of said object (1)
through a viewing point (V) of said tubular structure selected in said curved planar
reformation view (C) or said symbolic pathway view (B).

2.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one planar view (O)
is generated by use of the 3D spatial position data assigned to the selected viewing
point (V).

3.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein three orthogonal views (O1, O2,
O3) are generated and visualised which intersect in the selected viewing point (V).

4.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said symbolic pathway view (B)
of said tubular structure is obtained following segmentation of said tubular structure in
said 3D image data set.

5.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating and
visualising said curved planar reformation view (C) includes a step of selecting a
viewing direction (VD) and a viewing up direction (VU) determining the viewing angle
of said curved planar reformation view (C).

6.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection of said a viewing point (V) can be interactively changed, wherein after selection of a new viewing point said at least one planar view (O) through said new viewing point is newly generated and visualised.

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7.   Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tubular structure is a vessel, bone, airway, colon or spine of a patient and wherein said 3D image data set is a medical image data set, in particular a 3D rotational angiography, CT angiography or MR data set.

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8.   Apparatus for visualisation of a tubular structure of an object (1) by use of a 3D image data set of said object, comprising: - means (3) for storing said 3D image data, - means (42) for generating a curved planar reformation view (C) from a symbolic pathway view (B) of said tubular structure, said symbolic pathway view (B) representing said tubular structure and the pathway points of said symbolic pathway being assigned with their 3D spatial position data, - means (5) for storing said 3D spatial position data of said symbolic pathway, - means (43) for generating at least one planar view (O) of said object (1) through a viewing point (V) of said tubular structure selected in said curved planar reformation view (C) or said symbolic pathway view (B), - means (6) for visualising said symbolic pathway view (B), said curved planar reformation view (C) and said at least one planar view (O), and - means (7) for selecting a viewing point (V) in said curved planar reformation view (C) or said symbolic pathway view (B).

25   9.   Apparatus for acquiring and processing medical image data, in particular magnetic resonance apparatus, computer tomography apparatus, x-ray apparatus or ultrasound apparatus, comprising means (2) for acquiring medical image data and means (3-7) for processing said image data including an apparatus for visualisation according to claim 8.

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10.   Computer program comprising computer program means for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1 when said computer program product is run on a computer.